

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
06/09/04

**Contact: Community Coordinated
Child Care Resource and Referral
586-469-6993**

**Child Care Community Volunteers to Support Military Personnel Returning
from Iraq and Afghanistan**

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI – 06/09/04 – MSU Extension's (MSUE) Community Coordinated Child Care (4C) announced the Macomb and St. Clair County launch of *Operation Child Care*, part of a national, voluntary initiative developed by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA). The goal of Operation Child Care is to team local child care resource and referral agencies, child care providers and trained 4-H caregivers to provide a few hours of free child care for National Guard and Reserve military personnel returning for two weeks of rest and recuperation leave from Iraq and Afghanistan. 4C is recruiting child care providers willing to volunteer their services to support the "citizen soldiers" from Macomb and St. Clair Counties. Any child care provider interested in volunteering is welcome and encouraged to call 4C at 586-469-6993 (Macomb County) or 800-621-8661 (St. Clair County). All child care providers who volunteer their time for Operation Child Care will receive official national recognition.



MACOMB COUNTY

Cooperative Extension Service

21885 Dunham, Suite 12
Clinton Township, Michigan
48036

(586) 469-5180
Fax: (586) 469-6948

Marilyn E. Rudzinski
County Extension Director

*Michigan State University
Extension programs and
materials are open to all without
regard to race, color, national
origin, gender, religion, age,
disability, political beliefs,
sexual orientation, marital
status, or family status.*

*Michigan State University, U.S.
Department of Agriculture, and
Macomb County Board of
Commissioners cooperating.*

*MSU is an affirmative-action,
equal-opportunity institution.*

National Guard and Reserve members with valid military identification and leave orders will be connected to 4C through NACCRRA's Child Care Aware® hotline, 1-800-424-2246, or by visiting the Web site at www.ChildCareAware.org. 4C will then link the National Guard or Reserve member to participating child care providers.

Volunteer child care providers who meet state and local child care regulations will provide four or more hours of free child care so that service members can attend to family business, or take their spouses out for a date. Operation Child Care was designed for National Guard and Reserve personnel because they do not typically have access to the military family support programs provided to active duty personnel. So far, 4C has recruited 20 providers.

National Operation Child Care efforts are being led by NACCRRA, in partnership with the National Association of Family Child Care, the National Child Care Association, the National Cooperative Extension System, the National 4-H Program and the Child Care Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

****MORE****

Bringing Knowledge to Life!

MACOMB MSUE — Page 2
Child Care Volunteers to Support Military Personnel

Bright Horizons Family Solutions and KinderCare Learning Centers, representing thousands of child care centers across the country are also participating.

About MSUE – 4C: 4C is a nonprofit child care resource and referral agency that helps families find, provide and plan for affordable, quality child care. 4C also offers educational programs for child care providers.

About NACCRRA: Child Care Aware and Operation Child Care are two of NACCRRA's many initiatives to improve the development and learning of all children by providing leadership and support to state and community child care resource and referral agencies and promoting national policies and partnerships that facilitate universal access to quality child care. NACCRRA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., representing a network of more than 850 state and local child care resource and referral agencies across the country.



MACOMB COUNTY

Cooperative Extension Service

21885 Dunham, Suite 12
Clinton Township, Michigan
48036

(586) 469-5180
Fax: (586) 469-6948

Marilyn E. Rudzinski
County Extension Director

*Michigan State University
Extension programs and
materials are open to all without
regard to race, color, national
origin, gender, religion, age,
disability, political beliefs,
sexual orientation, marital
status, or family status.*

*Michigan State University, U.S.
Department of Agriculture, and
Macomb County Board of
Commissioners cooperating.*

*MSU is an affirmative-action,
equal-opportunity institution.*

For more information on any of the Macomb MSUE community programs including Children-Youth-Family, Agriculture and Natural Resources or Community and Economic Development, please call 586-469-5180, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

****END****